

Ex-General Walker Accuses Rusk, Swinman; His Two-Day Hearing—A Disaster for Light

THE CHARGES AT HEARING

By James E. Warner
A Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk and other top officials of the government yesterday were accused of being parts of a "soft on Communism" apparatus.

The charges come from former Army Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, now a Red-hunting crusader seeking the Democratic nomination for Governor of Texas. He completed two days of free-swinging testimony before the Senate Armed Services subcommittee, was excused, and emerged to take a fistic poke at a reporter.

The blow—a glancing right jab to the face—apparently caused no more damage than the former general's remarks in committee hearings, which smacked of anti-Communist testimony taken in the heyday of the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's probes.

In fact, Mr. Walker said Sen. McCarthy, and various others, including himself and retired General of the Army Douglas MacArthur had been "framed in a den of iniquity"

by soft-on-Communist groups in government.

But he wasn't any more specific yesterday than in his preceding seven hours of testimony Wednesday. His principal targets, Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, denied his charges. Mr. Rusk saying they weren't worthy of comment, and Mr. McNamara issuing a statement of denial. Mr. Walker asserted that under the Communist-soft policies, the country is "digging its own grave for Khrushchev to bury us in" and that the grave is "three feet deep" already.

He named Secretary Rusk and Walt Whitman Rostow, an adviser to President Kennedy who is counselor to the State Department and one of the top policy planners there, as being influential in a secret "control apparatus" in the alleged soft-on-communism clique, but said he did not know the actual directors of the "apparatus."

Testifying on foreign aid at another hearing, Secretary Rusk was advised by Sen. Stuart Symington, D., Mo., of the charges. Sen. Symington said he had a "very high opinion" of Mr. Rusk's devotion to his country, noting that he had served in the Army under former President Eisenhower and Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson.

After the hearing, Mr. Rusk said the charge against him was "not worthy of comment." As for those against Mr. Rostow, he said:

"I'm happy to be associated with Mr. Rostow. He is an able and close colleague."

Van Fleet's Opinion

Gen. James A. Van Fleet, ret., former commander of UN forces in Korea, told Sen. Symington later that he thought Mr. Walker was "completely out of line" and that the former general had made "a complete mess" in his testimony.

At the Pentagon, Secretary McNamara issued a statement saying he had "complete trust and confidence" in Adam Yarmolinsky, his special assistant attacked Wednesday by Mr. Walker.

Earlier, Mr. Yarmolinsky said that his public record is anti-Communist, although he had attended some Young Communist meetings while he was in high school because he was "curious."

Secretary McNamara said he had reviewed security files on Mr. Yarmolinsky and others holding top positions at the Pentagon before they were hired.

Mr. Walker had also attacked Arthur Sylvester, Assistant Defense Secretary for Public Information, as having played a major part in his resignation from the Army after being chastised for allegedly seeking to influence voting of men in the 24th Infantry Division in Germany, which he then commanded.

"The basis, if any, for Mr. Walker's charges against Arthur Sylvester is wholly unclear to me from the record," Mr. McNamara said. "Lest there be any doubt on this issue, however, I wish to state that I have complete trust and confidence in him."

Chance to Reply

Sen. John Stennis, D., Miss., said that any persons named by Mr. Walker would be heard in reply if they desire. There was no indication that either State Department or Pentagon officials would avail themselves of the opportunity, for the present, at least.

Mr. Walker charged that Mr. Rostow has been in charge of operations of the Central Intelligence Agency "since 1954" a CIA spokesman later said Mr. Rostow was never employed by the agency.

Continuing his testimony, Mr. Walker said: "Instead of State Department policies being made on the basis of CIA estimates, CIA estimates are made to fit State Department policies."

This and the "no win" and "soft line" policies, the witness charged, resulted in reverses in Korea, Cuba and the Congo. The "apparatus" operates, he said, through the United Nations, which he called "the nearest thing to the Tower of Babel that's ever been built."

Blasting away at the CIA and UN, Mr. Walker said that UN action against Moise Tshombe's regime in the Katanga area of the Congo was "vicious and outrageous." Mr. Tshombe also was among those "framed in a den of iniquity," others being Syngman Rhee of Korea and the late James Forrestal, who was the first Secretary of Defense, he declared.

Mr. Rusk, he said, was on the staff of Gen. "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell in the Far East during the "agarian reform" movement which ended in Communist control of China, and also was "member and supporter of the Institute of Pacific Relations, which was greatly influenced by Owen Lattimore." Both the institute and Mr. Lattimore were subjects of intense Congressional investigations in earlier years.

He scoffed at former President Eisenhower for having congratulated Russia for photographing the dark side of the moon, asserting the Soviet picture "very likely" was one out of our own Popular Mechanics magazine.